

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY REPRESENTATIVE POPE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, for their advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities and to designate Tuesday, April 5, 2016, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, a disability is a natural part of life and does not diminish the right of individuals with disabilities to exercise control over their lives and fully participate in their communities; and

WHEREAS, children, regardless of the nature or severity of their disabilities, need families and enduring relationships with adults in a nurturing home environment to develop to their fullest potential; and

WHEREAS, adults with developmental disabilities should be afforded the opportunity to make decisions for themselves and to live in typical homes and communities where they can exercise their full rights and responsibilities as citizens; and

WHEREAS, almost thirteen thousand eight hundred people are waiting for individual and family support and services that will allow them to live independently in their own homes or with their families rather than being segregated from their communities in facilities; and

WHEREAS, the number of individuals with disabilities waiting for individual and family support and services continues to increase annually; and

WHEREAS, many programs designed to assist individuals with disabilities are threatened with funding cuts or elimination; and

WHEREAS, LaCAN is a statewide, grassroots network of individuals, families, and other stakeholders advocating for individual and family support and services for Louisiana's citizens who are developmentally disabled; and

WHEREAS, Disability Rights Day in Louisiana allows individuals with disabilities and families from across Louisiana to meet their legislators at the state capitol and educate them on the issues impacting people with disabilities, as well as to rally in support of individual and family support and services.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots advocacy network, LaCAN, for their advocacy efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities, and does hereby designate Tuesday, April 5, 2016, as Disability Rights Day in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE